

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A machine-implemented method comprising:
receiving over a wide-area network (WAN) an indication of a preference of a user from a first population of users that form a virtual community, ~~wherein~~ the first population of users is identified as investment analysts, ~~and wherein~~ the preference from the user is a selection of an investment or an allocation for the investment that the user provides to the virtual community, and the user becomes a member of the virtual community upon completion of a personal profile;
aggregating the preference into a database of previously received preferences from the first population, the aggregation being a set of preferences; and
deriving a position of a financial product for a second population of users in response to the set of preferences, the second population of users identified as investors, and the financial product is a mutual fund.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
associating with each preference a ranking of a submitting user; and
screening the preferences based on the ranking.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[2]] 1 wherein deriving comprises:
identifying within the set of preferences a first subset of preferences having a capitalization and a trading volume consistent with predefined objectives of the mutual fund.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4 further comprising:
screening the first subset of preferences based on a ranking of a submitting user to create a second subset.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein each preference represents a stock in a model portfolio of a user, the method further comprising:
ranking the model portfolio relative to a population of model portfolios; and
providing rewards based on a reward structure to submitters of high performing model portfolios.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim [[2]] 1 further comprising:
receiving from an investor currency units to be invested in the mutual fund;
screening the set of preferences to identify a security to be added to the mutual fund; and
establishing a new position of the security in the mutual fund.
8. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim [[2]] 1 further comprising:
receiving a request over the WAN for information about the mutual fund; and
serving a page reflecting current holdings of the mutual fund over the WAN.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the financial product is a newsletter.
10. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising:
screening the set of preferences to generate a recommended list.
11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the screening is based on at least one of:
ranking of a submitting user, investment style of the recommended list, capitalization, average trading volume, price to earning ratio, return on investment, gross margin, and revenue growth rate over a predetermined time period; and
generating analyst reports for submitting users satisfying predetermined criterion.
12. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising:
distributing the newsletter electronically; and
updating the analyst reports and recommendations with a frequency greater than weekly.

13. (Withdrawn) A machine-implemented method comprising:
receiving recommendations for securities from a population of users over a wide area network (WAN);
generating a population weighted scale (PWS) for a first subset of the securities recommended; and
identifying position changes for a mutual fund from the first subset of securities recommended.
14. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13 wherein generating a PWS comprises:
compiling a list of unique securities recommended by a population of users;
dollar weighting a first subset of the list of unique securities to have equal dollar weighting; and
multiplying securities in the first subset by a number of user from the population recommending the security.
15. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13 further comprising:
determining an industry weighting and a sector weighting of the PWS.
16. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13 further comprising:
reducing the first subset to a second subset having a predetermined discrete number of members.
17. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16 wherein reducing comprises:
automatically eliminating from the second subset securities not satisfying predetermined criteria, including at least one of:
price to earning ratio, capitalization, trading volume, beta, alpha, and price to book ratio.

18. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 16 further comprising:
rebalancing the mutual fund based on existing fund weighting, an industry weighting of the PWS and a sector weighting of the PWS.
19. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 18 wherein rebalancing comprises:
applying a valuation screen to the mutual fund; and
allocating new money to a security from the second subset based on the application of the valuation screen.
20. (Withdrawn) A machine-implemented method comprising:
establishing a naked fund;
receiving a request for current mutual fund information over a wide area network (WAN); and
transmitting current mutual fund information over the WAN.
21. (Withdrawn) A machine-implemented method comprising:
investing in a mutual fund; and
reviewing current fund holdings data received over a WAN from a server node.